

Determined Leeds Rally To Second Half Victory

Darlington SFA U13 2 v 3 Leeds SFA U13
Saturday 4 December 2021

A return to the ESFA Champions Cup this week and an away trip to the relatively unknown opponents all rumoured to represent local academy teams.

Leeds starting brightly dominating possession in the early exchanges almost took the lead with Albie Jaruga denied by the frame of the Darlington goal. It was Darlington though who took an early lead through a cross that found a spare man at the back post who finished from close range. No more than 5 minutes later it was 2-0, the Darlington striker breaking free and beating the Leeds 'keeper in a one on one.

Leeds although a bit shell-shocked didn't let their heads drop and continued to play the better football but chances for Damai James-Wenham and Josh Heyes were not converted.

After the break an inspired change of formation and Wil Temple pushed to centre forward to give some much needed energy and pressing from the front. Leeds were rewarded immediately with Temple bagging his first goal of the season. A quick fire double and Leeds were all square, a brace from Temple. Leeds very much on top pushing hard for a 3rd.

Great individual skill from Peniel Essouma beating 4 Darlington players down the right touchline before forcing a Leeds corner. Essouma sent the ball into the 6 yard box but Darlington could only clear as far as Jaden Johnson who finished from 12 yards to give Leeds a deserved lead. Leeds possibly made it 4 after Essouma's effort from the edge of the 18 yard box came off the underside of the bar however with the lack of VAR or Hawk-Eye the referee waved play on.

Leeds hung on to secure the win and give themselves a great chance of progressing from the group.

Leeds goals; Wil Temple (2), Jaden Johnson